

hear questions every night about that dinner. We have some interesting meetings. Last night on the North Side was especially so. Sister Gibbons is not feeling well and Rev. Ford is holding the fort here. I am talking on the Kingdom across the city. Sister Clara is not well, but Mc. stands to the rack all right, best health I have had for years. Pray for us all.

JOHN DUKE MCFADEN,
384 S. Western Ave.

WASHINGTON CITY ECHOES

Jeremiah says, "The customs of the people are vain."

Of this I have been very forcibly reminded during the last few days.

We are certainly glad that Christmas comes but once a year, not because we do not take pleasure in celebrating appropriately the day set apart as the anniversary of the nativity of our blessed Savior, but on account of its awful desecration, and the abuses connected with it, and because these are, in a great measure, chargeable to those who profess to be followers of our Lord.

So far as accomplishing any real good is concerned, and obtaining any practical, spiritual results, it would sometimes appear that we might almost as well close our church doors and shut up our missions during the holiday season. Instead of bringing acceptable gifts and offerings to the world's Redeemer, and thus rendering worshipful homage to Him, are not the majority of His professed followers so much engrossed with the gratification of the natural and fleshly desires, that there is but little room, if any, for the entertainment of the heavenly stranger?

Have we given Him the best room in the inn, or has He been compelled to find place in the manger?

"Room for pleasure, room for business,
But for Christ, the crucified;
Not a place that He can enter
In your heart for which He died?"

Lord, grant that this may not be true of any of us!

But with all that seems dark and gloomy as we look from the one point of view at these things, yet, beloved, surely we always have great reason to rejoice.

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32.

Now couple John 10:28 with this. Do we all actually believe all this? Since the kingdom is His, and we are in His hand, (which is our high privilege in Christ Jesus,) what need we fear, "though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea?" Ps. 46:2.

Our great concern should simply be to

"Know HIM and
Make HIM known."

I am glad to say that notwithstanding the many influences for evil that surround us, and the strong tendencies worldward among the classes of nominal Christians, to whom reference has already been made, yet we are

still greatly encouraged in the Master's use in this city. Our congregations continue encouraging, and more than usual interest is being manifested, and we confidently expect to see still larger acquisitions in the name of the Lord in the near future.

And now as the old year is about to close, and we shall soon be permitted, the Lord willing, to enter upon the new, to meet its many labors, trials and responsibilities, may He grant us all still more and more of His divine wisdom and power, so that the year 1898 may be one of unprecedented record in all that pertains to the advancement and extension of His glorious kingdom!

May the prayer of Philipp. 1:9-11 be fulfilled in our hearts and lives. He will do it if we will let Him.

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Eph. 3:20, 21.

W. M. LYON.

315 9th St. S. L.

A BOY'S CONTRIBUTION

In the money collected by our church for the mission cause, one of the largest amounts was given by Geo. Morris Fryman, a boy about six years old. He has a mission box and had sixty cents. He gave it cheerfully and hopes it may result in good. I think George will be a Brethren preacher when he gets older. He is a regular attendant at church services, and I hope he may not get tired as he grows older. We have some members in this county on the retired list. I suppose they think they ought to be pensioned also. Just what service they have done I don't know, but hope they do. May God help us to realize that we are not saved through our personal worth, but only through his mercy.

A. S. MENAUGH.

MONEY-GIVING A SURE TEST OF CHARACTER

In all our religion and in our Bible study, it "is of the greatest consequence to find out" what the mind of Christ is, to think as he thought, and to feel just as he felt. There is not a question that concerns us, not a single matter that ever comes before us, but we find in the words of Christ something for our guidance and help.

We want today to get at the mind of Christ about money, to know exactly what he thought, and then to think and act just as he would. This is not an easy matter. We are so under the influence of the world around us that the fear of becoming utterly impractical if we think and act just like Christ easily comes upon us. Let us not be afraid. If we really desire to find out what is in his mind, he will guide us to what he wants us to think and do. Only be honest in the thought, I want to have Christ teach me how to possess and how to use my money. Not a gift for any part of God's work, great or small, but he notices it "and puts its value

on it" for the blessing, if any, that it is to bring in time or eternity. And he is willing, even here on earth, in the waiting heart, to let us know what he thinks of our giving. Giving money is a part of our religious life, is watched over by Christ, and must be regulated by his Word. Every grace needs to be exercised if it is to grow; most of all is this true of love; and did we but know it, our money might develop and strengthen our love as it called us to be the careful and sympathizing consideration of the needs of those around us. Do believe. Money giving may be one of your choicest means of grace. Think of the poor; what help and happiness is brought to thousands of helpless ones by the timely gift of a little money from the hand of love. Lord Jesus, oh, give me grace to love thee intently, that I may know how to give!—Sarah E. Harman, in *Religious Telescope*.

THE MISSIONARY CIRCLE

The following names have been enrolled during the past month:

102. J. M. Murray, Aleppo, Pa.
103. Della Leslie, Laporte, Ind.
104. P. M. Swinehart, Masontown, Pa.
105. H. M. Oberholtzer, Buckeye City, Ohio.

There ought to be many more. Now at the beginning of the year is an excellent time to begin. While buying new books at this season, why not try these?

There are none more fascinating nor uplifting. If you know of anyone who might be interested please send their names to the secretary and circulars will be sent free.

C. F. YODER.

Our Bible School

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

J. L. GILLIN

CHARACTER STUDIES—JOSHUA

I. Biography.

- a. Moses' general against Amalek. Ex. 17:9.
- b. As Moses' servant went with him upon Mt. Sinai to receive the Law. Ex. 24:13.
- c. One of the two spies of faith and courage sent to spy out Canaan. Num. 13:16.
- d. Ordained as Moses' successor. Num. 27:18-21.
- e. God's charge to him. Josh. 1:1-9.
- f. Captures Jericho. Josh. 6:42-21.
- g. Captures Ai. Josh. 8:3, 8, 25.
- h. His last words to Israel. Josh. 24:14-30.

II. Life Lessons.

- a. His taking a cowardly people and leading them successfully through hard battles and settling them peacefully shows his diligence and perseverance.
- b. One bad person can prevent a multitude of good ones from having success.
- c. God blesses only those who obey him.
- d. Shall we be Achans calling down God's curse, or Joshua leading the people? Titus 2:14.